

renewal news

IDAHO CAPITOL RESTORATION



The exterior work described in this Capitol Renovation and Repair Bulletin represents only a very small portion of the total critical repair needs of the Idaho State Capitol Building.

Department of Administration
Construction Update No. 50
May 19, 2005

Idaho Capitol Eagle to Get Stately ‘Face-Lift’

Since 1912, the eagle perched high atop the Idaho Statehouse has persevered remarkably well against the winds of time and all kinds of inclement weather.

Contractors currently working on the restoration of the dome and upper lantern level of the Capitol building, say that “overall, the eagle appears to be sound and in good condition with little evidence of chipping or damage from the elements.”

Over the past several weeks, the eagle has undergone close assessment. The statue is made of copper and has been protected through the years with four different coatings of paint including metal-based coatings of copper and bronze, according to **Jan Frew**, Design and Construction Manager, **Division of Public Works**. During their assessment, workers also have noticed a series of small clips mounted on the eagle’s wings and top profile, which may have supported lighting at one time. There are some small holes and two cracks in the eagle’s talons at the statue’s base that will also require repair (photo below, left). This was probably due to the clip attachments.



According to the Idaho Historical Society, the eagle was placed on top of the dome as that section of the building neared completion in October of 1912. The eagle itself stands five feet, seven inches tall, and weighs 250 pounds. It adorns the top of the 26-foot stone “lantern” which is

atop the dome proper. Over the next couple of months, weather permitting, workers will be cleaning and removing all the coatings down to the original copper and then applying a gilding of gold leaf.

Exterior masonry repair work is ongoing, and entrances may be restricted as the contractors make their way around the Capitol building.

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